

**PARK COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 19, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Park Commission was held at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)  
Kevin Bellows  
John Scippa  
Joseph DeSabia

As there was not a quorum present, Chairman indicated that all actions would be by consensus to be ratified at a future meeting.

**CONSENSUS** to approve minutes of September 14, 2009.

Superintendent of Parks Report:

Due to unexpected family obligations, for the next several months the Superintendent will be unable to attend Park Commission meetings however will provide a written review of the month's activities to the Commission for its review; and, if the need for further discussion arises, he will be available by telephone or for resolution following the meeting.

Regular duties currently under way include:

- Opening parks and restrooms.
- Cutting fields.
- Blowing off Tennis courts.
- Perennial Bed Clean-Up for Fall.
- Leaves in Park.
- Winterizing Irrigation and Restrooms.
- Beginning Winter Mower Equipment Maintenance.
- Shut down of Pool and Pumps Maintenance.

Specialty Projects Completed:

- Old Mine Footbridge re-decked and new side ramps built.
- Landscaping Main Library and Painting of Friends of Library Shed.
- Landscaping of entrance to Tashua Knolls / at the time of this writing the area will need to be graded and seeded due to erosion damage from heavy rains.
- Help in preliminary work for playground at Nature Center.

Discussion on long-standing policy prohibiting the play of football on some fields.

Standing rule for Rangers is to channel play from restricted fields to an alternate field within the same park if possible.

Dr. Bellows mentioned that he noticed that complaints on inability to get use of fields have increased this year.

Two fields mentioned are Island Brook and Indian Ledge.

Island Brook field was recently re-seeded which precluded play; and, Indian Ledge has been closed during reconstruction of drainage trunk lines creating an unexpected hazard to anyone running over these areas. There is a "Field Closed" sign attached to the fence.

Chairman noted that reasons for closing specific fields at times is maintenance and safety. Superintendent will be requested to consider increasing communication on field closures with on-site signs and/or supported construction tape and use of the Town's web site.

Grants:

Chairman reviewed news article of September 19, 2009 on State STEAP Grants now approved from applications submitted during the last grant cycle:

- \$43,000 for new flooring at the Indian Ledge Park Teen Center
- \$80,000 to expand the parking lots at Beach Memorial Park and the Teen Center.

And, non-Parks award for,  
(\$82,000 toward the renovation and construction of an addition to the Trumbull Animal Shelter.)

Babe Ruth and American Legion Agreement:

Mr. DeSabia reported that a Four-Member Board comprising representation from Babe Ruth and American Legion has been created to resolve league expansion issues. Discussion continues with anticipated resolution to this issue.

Dr. Bellows noted that at Unity #1 and #5, the "green" tops of the irrigation boxes have been vandalized and should be repaired or replaced because of the hazard they present. (Superintendent will be advised.)

Kaechele Field Complex/Madison Middle School Fields:

When Kaechele Complex and Madison Middle School Fields are fully scheduled at the same time, there becomes a stressed-parking situation with parking on the roadways around the school which may hinder access by emergency vehicles.

If a particular organized town athletic group wishes to utilize park facilities, they must appear before the Park Commission for approvals. This applies to fall, spring and tournament play. At that time, when the Commission is in session, many issues can be addressed to resolve concerns of needed access and parking.

We will check with school system to determine the number of parking spaces at Madison Middle School and schedule play equal to parking availability.

Aldo Memorial Park (off Madison Avenue on Westwind/Lauderdale):

Mr. Scippa reported dirt bike activity in the park. Our ordinances prohibit dirt bike riding. We will request Rangers to include Aldo on their rounds. Field is currently maintained as a seasonally-cut field. There was discussion on returning to a regularly scheduled cut field to provide neighborhood pick-up play and eliminate any chance for the building of a dirt bike path.

**CONSENSUS** to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe, Clerical Adm. Assistant